Some of the private hospitals which were empanelled earlier did not accept the rates offered to them and have decided to opt out of the CGHS empanelment. The procedure for empanelment is now a continuous process and any private hospital/diagnostic centre fulfilling the conditions can apply at any time for empanelment.

Upgradation of Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur

†335. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central and State Government are having any scheme to upgrade Indira Gandhi Medical College at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount provided for the same and whether the said amount has been released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) it has been decided to upgrade 13 existing medical institutions in various parts of the country. In so far as the State of Maharashtra is concerned, the State Government has identified Grants Medical College and Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai for upgradation. At present there is no proposal to upgrade Indira Gandhi Medical College at Nagpur.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase of polio cases

336. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is spurt of polio cases in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the WHO cautioned Government about the spread of polio to new pockets of the country;

(c) if so, the details of (a) and (b) above;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.